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PATENT **RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116** EXPEDITED PROCEDURE **EXAMINING GROUP 3738**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and

Trademark Office on April 13, 2006.

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Confirmation No. 9870

. Applicant

: Lutz Biedermann, et al.

Filed

: August 21, 2003

Title

: METHOD FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF A TUBULAR SPACER AND

SPACER

TC/A.U.

: 3738

Examiner

: Alvin J. Stewart

Docket No.

: 56731/B884

Customer No.

: 23363

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION AND INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068 Pasadena, CA 91109-7068 April 13, 2006

Commissioner:

In response to the Office action of November 16, 2005, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.